

CLAIMS

1. An orthodontic appliance comprising:
 - a base portion adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,
 - 5 a body portion extending from the base portion and having an archwire receiving means,
 - the archwire receiving means having a first part which has at least a first dimension substantially adapted to receive a portion of the archwire and having a second part comprising a narrowing portion having a second dimension substantially more narrow than the first dimension.
- 10 2. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1, wherein the narrowing portion is provided along a length and / or depth of the archwire receiving means.
- 15 3. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the narrowing is one or more points along a length and / or depth of the archwire receiving means.
- 20 4. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the narrowing portion is at least one protrusion or rib.
5. An orthodontic appliance comprising:
 - a base portion adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,
 - 25 a body portion extending from the base portion and having an archwire receiving means,
 - the archwire receiving means having a first part which has at least a first dimension substantially adapted to receive a portion of the archwire and having a second part comprising an enlarged portion having a second dimension substantially greater than the first dimension.

6. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the archwire receiving means is a slot provided in the body portion.
- 5 7. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein the enlarged portion is provided along a length and / or depth of the archwire receiving means.
- 10 8. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the enlarged portion is provided as one or more points along a length and / or depth of the archwire receiving means.
9. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the enlarged portion is at least one protrusion or rib.

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10. An orthodontic appliance as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the appliance is an orthodontic bracket.
- 20 11. A method of coupling an archwire to an orthodontic appliance, the method comprising the steps of:
 - bonding a base portion of the appliance to a surface of a tooth,
 - placing the archwire proximate an archwire receiving means, and
 - moving the archwire into contact with either a narrowing portion of the archwire receiving means or an enlarged portion of the receiving means.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 11, comprising the further step of moving the archwire substantially past the narrowing portion.
- 30 13. A method as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the orthodontic appliance is an appliance as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10.
14. An appliance substantially as herein disclosed.

15. A method substantially as herein disclosed.